

## House Republican Press Release

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### **Rep. Tymniak Proposes Access to Education Funds for Children of Divorced Parents**



State Rep. Cathy C. Tymniak, R-133<sup>rd</sup>, Fairfield, Westport, has proposed legislation and testified in support of a bill to help children of divorced parents gain quicker access to education savings controlled by a noncustodial parent.

According to Rep. Tymniak, HB 5077, An Act Concerning Access to Educational Savings Funds Upon Dissolution of Marriage, has the potential to make access to tuition dollars possible for a custodial parent or a child of a dissolved marriage. If a child does not have his or her tuition funds available in a timely fashion, she said it could cause havoc to the student's education.

Rep. Tymniak said, "Last summer, I had a constituent call me saying that once again they had to take the non-custodial parent back to court. This time it was to get the dollars necessary for their child's tuition payment and also the deposit. This young man had been fortunate enough to be accepted to college, and had been notified that payments had not been received. If payments were not made in the next two weeks the university would no longer hold his spot."

She added, "Needless to say it was back to court and a race against time. The constituent moved and I never heard what did happen or how long the court process took. We can only speculate that some family member came to the young man's aid, perhaps it was a good friend, or the worse case scenario the young man was denied the opportunity to attend college. This bill would have given the custodial parent or young man access to the necessary funds and avoided the entire situation."